(c) the categories of employees whom the Delhi Telephone Department offers Government accommodation and the details of rules and provisions made in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) on the basis of specific sanction of the Department of Telecommunications, accommodation has been allotted to six employees working in the Ministry of Communications from the Delhi Telephones Pool.

(c) MTNL Delhi Unit provides Government accommodation to its employees in Group A, B, C & D cadres from MTNL Pool as per Government rules.

[English]

Organic Farming

2315. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news article captioned 'A natural farmer' appearing in 'Sunday Mail' dated May 5-11-1991;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to popularise organic farming in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There have been occasional reports about the success of organic farming system. However, without the use of chemical inputs like fertilisers and pesticides, it has not been possible to attain high levels of yields. The best results are, therefore, obtained through integrated nutrient supply system which combines the use of chemical and organic fertilisers coupled with suitable package of practices.

Harmful Effects of Pesticides

2316. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether residues of pesticides are a health hazard to human beings;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review the licensing and import of pesticides;

(c) whether the Government have implemented the recommendations made by S. N. Banerjee Committee on pesticides;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Residues of pesticides can pose health hazards to human beings if their quantities exceed tolerance limits prescribed for this purpose.

(b) The Government keep on reviewing the use, manufacture and import of pesticides reported to be causing health hazards from time to time through Central Insecticides Board/Registration Committee set up under the Insecticides Act, 1968 as well as through High Level Expert Committees.

(c) and (d) Out of reports on 31 pesticides submitted by Banerjee Committee, reports on 12 i.e. DDT, BHC, Dieldrin, EDB, Chlorbenzilate, DBCP, Toxaphene, Sodium Cyanide, PCNB, Captan, Captafol and PCP have been accepted by the Government and recommendations have been implemented. Report on remaining 19 are under examination.

(e) In view of reply to parts (c) & (d), the question does not arise.